

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

We claim:

1. (Currently Amended) A process for producing a polyamide ~~which contains~~ with titanium dioxide pigments, ~~which comprises~~ comprising:

dispersing the titanium dioxide pigments in a ~~starting~~ mixture containing water and caprolactam ~~by means of~~ with an apparatus, said apparatus comprising

a dispersing chamber,

a disk-shaped rotor disposed in said dispersing chamber,

a stator which has radial openings and is disposed in conjunction with said rotor in ~~the~~ a dispersing zone of said dispersing chamber,

a product inlet on each side of said rotor, ~~each product inlet preferably having an axial channel section~~ such that the confluence of ~~the~~ two product streams from each of the product inlets is disposed in the outer peripheral region of the disk-shaped rotor ~~disk~~, and

a product outlet at the outer periphery of said dispersing zone of said dispersing chamber,

by feeding the titanium dioxide pigments through one of said product inlets and the ~~starting~~ mixture[,] containing water and caprolactam[,] through the other ~~one of~~ said product ~~inlets~~, inlet to said dispersing chamber, and obtaining a product mixture[,] containing water, caprolactam and the titanium dioxide pigment ~~used, via~~ from said product outlet, and

polymerizing said product mixture to a form the polyamide containing titanium dioxide pigments.

2. (Currently Amended) A process as claimed in claim 1, wherein the ~~starting~~ mixture containing water and caprolactam further comprises a dispersing assistant.

3. (Currently Amended) A process as claimed in claim 1 ~~or 2~~, wherein water is removed from the product mixture before or during the polymerization.

4. (Currently Amended) A process as claimed in ~~any of claims 1 to 3~~ claim 1, wherein additional caprolactam is added to the product mixture before or during the polymerization.

5. (Currently Amended) A polyamide containing titanium dioxide pigments ~~which is obtainable~~ obtained by a process as claimed in ~~any of claims 1 to 4~~ claim 1.

6. (Currently Amended) The use of a polyamide containing titanium dioxide pigments ~~which is obtainable~~ obtained by a process as claimed in ~~any of claims 1 to 4~~ claim 1 as a masterbatch for delustering or coloration of a polymer.

7. (New) The process of claim 1, wherein the product inlets have an axial channel section.

8. (New) The process of claim 1, wherein the mixture containing water and caprolactam includes a weight ratio of water:caprolactam from 1:1 to 99:1.

9. (New) The process of claim 8, wherein the ratio of water:caprolactam is from 4:1 to 97:3.

10. (New) The process of claim 1, wherein the mixture containing water and caprolactam and the titanium dioxide pigments are added to each of the product inlets in a weight ratio of pigment:mixture from 1:99 to 1:1.

11. (New) The process of claim 10, wherein the ratio of pigment:mixture is from 15:85 to 1:3.

12. (New) The process of claim 1, wherein the titanium dioxide pigments have a mean average particle size of less than 1-2 microns as measured by optical microscopy.